

***Remarks***

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-14. Reconsideration of the rejections related to the remaining claims in this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-15 and 17-24 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 7, 15, 18, and 21-24 being the independent claims. Claims 16 and 25 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112***

The Examiner has rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. To expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claim 25 rendering this rejection moot.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

The Examiner has rejected claims 15, and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,240,414 issued to Beizer, et al. ("Beizer Patent"). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and request reconsideration.

The Examiner has also objected to claims 16-20, as being dependent upon rejected base claim 15, but noted that claims 16-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 16, and therefore should now be allowable. Claim 16 has been cancelled. Claim 17 has been amended to depend upon claim 15, and therefore should also be allowable. Claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations of original claims 15 and 18, and therefore should also be allowable. Claim 19 depends on claim 18 and therefore should be allowable. Claim 20 depends on claim 15 and therefore should be allowable.

The Examiner acknowledges that Examiner has previously indicated that claims 21-25 did contain allowable subject matter. Office Action at 4. The Examiner indicates that the Examiner has reconsidered this previous conclusion, and has determined that the wherein clauses in claims 21-24 carry no patentable weight because of the use of the word "if." *Id.* Applicants have amended claims 21-24 to eliminate the use of the word "if." Therefore, based on Applicants previous arguments and Examiner acknowledgement of the allowability of these claims, claims 21-24 should be allowable.

To expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claim 25, rendering the rejection of claim 25 moot. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 15, and 17-24.

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Michael D. Specht  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 54,463

Date: 11/12/04

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600  
332851\_1.DOC